

Appl. No. : 10/768,881
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A filter system for use with an aquarium and a protein skimmer, the filter system comprising:

a housing comprising a pre-filter chamber having a pre-filter configured to collect and filter water from both the aquarium and the protein skimmer; and

a sump chamber, wherein water is directed from the pre-filter chamber to the sump chamber, and wherein a portion of the water flowing from the pre-filter to through the sump chamber is directed to the protein skimmer by gravity and suction, such that a desired quantity of water is passed through the protein skimmer a plurality of times before being directed to the aquarium.

2. (currently amended) The filter system of Claim 1, wherein the sump chamber comprises a diverter configured to divert the desired quantity of water exiting the pre-filter from the sump chamber to the protein skimmer.

3. (currently amended) The filter system of Claim 2, wherein the diverter comprises a trough.

4. (original) The filter system of Claim 3, wherein the trough is formed by two molded vertically inwardly extending partitions formed in the sides of said housing, said partitions dividing the interior of the housing into the pre-filter chamber and the sump chamber.

5. (currently amended) The filter system of Claim 1, further comprising a biological filter chamber and a pump, wherein the pump is configured for pumping water from the filter system sump chamber to the biological filter chamber and the aquarium, and wherein water from the biological filter chamber is directed to the sump chamber.

6. (currently amended) A filter system for use in an aquarium comprising:

a biological chamber for holding biological media, said biological chamber comprising at least one removable drip drawer having a plurality of bores therein to distribute water substantially evenly over the biological media, wherein said at least one removable drip drawer is rotatable so as to be removed from said biological chamber in a first direction and a second direction.

7. (original) The filter system of Claim 6, wherein the biological chamber comprises at least two drip drawers.

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8. (original) The filter system of Claim 6, wherein the biological chamber comprises at least one drip drawer holder for supporting the at least one drip drawer.

9. (currently amended) The filter system of Claim 8, wherein the drip drawer holder is removably supported on ledges in the biological chamber and rotatable by approximately 180°.

10. (original) The filter system of Claim 6, wherein the drip drawer comprises a media filter pad.

11. (original) The filter system of Claim 10, wherein the media filter pad comprises charcoal.

12. (currently amended) A method of filtering an aquarium comprising:
collecting water from the aquarium and a protein skimmer;
filtering said collected water;
directing a first portion of said filtered water to the protein skimmer;
directing a second portion of said filtered water to the aquarium;
directing a third portion of said filtered water to at least one drip drawer in a biological chamber, wherein the drip drawer comprises a plurality of bores for distributing water evenly over biological media; and
distributing said water substantially evenly over said biological media in the biological chamber.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising returning said water from the biological media to the aquarium.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 12, further comprising directing said third portion of said filtered water to a second drip drawer.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (new) A method of filtering an aquarium comprising:
collecting water from the aquarium;
directing said water to at least one removable drip drawer in a biological chamber, wherein the drip drawer comprises a plurality of bores for distributing water evenly over

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biological media, wherein said at least one removable drip drawer is rotatable so as to be removed from said biological chamber in a first direction and a second direction; and distributing said water substantially evenly over said biological media in the biological chamber.

18. (new) The method of Claim 17, further comprising filtering said collected water prior to directing said water to said at least one removable drip drawer.

19. (new) The method of Claim 18, further comprising diverting a portion of said filtered water to a protein skimmer, and re-filtering water from said protein skimmer, such that at least a portion of said water directed to said at least one removable drip drawer has been filtered and passed through the protein skimmer.

20. (new) The method of Claim 17, further comprising diverting a portion of the water output from the biological chamber back to the at least one removable drip drawer.

21. (new) The method of Claim 17, further comprising a pre-filter configured to filter water from an aquarium before said water is directed to said biological chamber.